

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A drive through system comprising:

an ordering system mounted on ~~moving means~~ a conveyance on which an order is placed;

an acceptance center system which accepts the order from the ordering system;

a preparation system installed in each of a plurality of preparation places where a merchandise is prepared and stored; and

a transfer system installed in each of a plurality of transfer places where the merchandise prepared in a selected preparation place of the plurality of preparation places is transferred to an orderer, a transfer place of a plurality of transfer places selected based upon the transfer place being a predetermined distance from the preparation place and the transfer place's location along an expected path, the expected path determined by speed of the conveyance, distance of the conveyance from any of the plurality of transfer places and traffic conditions along any of a probable path of the conveyance to the plurality of transfer places, the transfer place being the

location where the merchandise is transferred to an orderer;

wherein,

the systems being connected to one another via a network, and

~~wherein during a period in which an order is pending, at least one of the preparation system of the selected preparation place and the transfer system of a selected transfer system periodically acquires position information indicating a present position of the orderer conveyance from the ordering system from when ordering information indicating that the orderer has placed an order for the merchandise is received from the ordering system until information indicating that transfer of the merchandise to the orderer has been completed is received from the ordering system, and determines the orderer's present position, and~~

~~the selected preparation place is selected as being within a predetermined distance of the selected transfer place.~~

2-18. (cancelled)

19. (currently amended) A method for providing merchandise pickup for an order placed from a mobile ordering system where the order is prepared in one of a plurality of preparation places and transferred to an entity placing the order in one of a plurality transfer places, the method comprising:

acquiring the order placed by the mobile ordering system in an acceptance system;

~~determining a transfer place of the plurality of transfer places where the order is transferred to the entity placing the order, the transfer place determined by its location in correspondence to an expected path of the entity placing the order;~~

determining a preparation place of the plurality of preparation places where merchandise of the order is prepared,
~~the preparation place is determined by its predetermined distance to an associated transfer place;~~

determining a transfer place of the plurality of transfer places where the order is transferred to the entity placing the order, the transfer place determined by being a predetermined distance from the preparation place and a location along an expected path of the conveyance, the expected path determined by speed of the conveyance, distance of the conveyance from any of the plurality of transfer places and traffic conditions along any of a probable path of the conveyance to the plurality of transfer places;

transmitting to the determined the transfer place and the preparation place the order from the acceptance system;

preparing the merchandise of the order at the preparation place;

delivering the merchandise of the order, prepared at

the preparation place to the transfer place; and

transferring the order from the transfer place to the entity that placed the order.

20. (new) The method of claim 19, further comprising:

transmitting periodically a request for acquiring the position information to the ordering system to acquire the position information upon receiving the ordering information by a preparation system of a preparation place; and

transmitting periodically a request for acquiring the position information to the ordering system to acquire the position information upon receiving the ordering information by the transfer system of the transfer place.

21. (new) The merchandise order receiving method according to claim 20, further comprising:

monitoring a movement path of the entity placing the order based on the acquired position information and transmitting trouble occurrence information indicating that a trouble has occurred in transferring the merchandise to the acceptance center system, when the transfer system recognizes that a distance between the entity placing the order present position and the transfer place where a time when a merchandise transfer is scheduled increases with an elapse of time; and

re-determining a preparation place of the plurality of

preparation places and a transfer place of the plurality of transfer places, upon the acceptance center system receiving the trouble occurrence information.

22. (new) The merchandise order receiving method according to claim 20, further comprising:

transmitting from a transfer system of a transfer place transfer information to the acceptance center system upon completion of the transfer of the merchandise to the entity placing the order by the transfer system; and

transmitting a command for stopping the acquiring of the position information to the transfer system and the preparation system upon receiving the transfer information by the acceptance center system.

23. (new) A computer readable recording medium with a computer program stored thereon when executed by a computer performs a method for providing merchandise pickup for an order placed from a mobile ordering system where the order is prepared in one of a plurality of preparation places and transferred to an entity placing the order in one of a plurality transfer places, the method comprising:

acquiring the order placed by the mobile ordering system in an acceptance system;

determining a preparation place of the plurality of

preparation places where merchandise of the order is prepared;

determining a transfer place of the plurality of transfer places where the order is transferred to the entity placing the order, the transfer place determined by being a predetermined distance from the preparation place and a location along an expected path of the conveyance, the expected path determined by speed of the conveyance, distance of the conveyance from any of the plurality of transfer places and traffic conditions along any of a probable path of the conveyance to the plurality of transfer places;

transmitting to the determined the transfer place and the preparation place the order from the acceptance system;

preparing the merchandise of the order at the preparation place;

delivering the merchandise of the order, prepared at the preparation place to the transfer place; and

transferring the order from the transfer place to the entity that placed the order.

24. (new) The computer readable recording medium of claim 23, further comprising:

transmitting periodically a request for acquiring the position information to the ordering system to acquire the position information upon receiving the ordering information by a preparation system of a preparation place; and

transmitting periodically a request for acquiring the position information to the ordering system to acquire the position information upon receiving the ordering information by the transfer system of the transfer place.

25. (new) The computer readable recording medium according to claim 24, further comprising:

monitoring a movement path of the entity placing the order based on the acquired position information and transmitting trouble occurrence information indicating that a trouble has occurred in transferring the merchandise to the acceptance center system, when the transfer system recognizes that a distance between the entity placing the order present position and the transfer place where a time when a merchandise transfer is scheduled increases with an elapse of time; and

re-determining a preparation place of the plurality of preparation places and a transfer place of the plurality of transfer places, upon the acceptance center system receiving the trouble occurrence information.

26. (new) The computer readable recording medium according to claim 24, further comprising:

transmitting from a transfer system of a transfer place transfer information to the acceptance center system upon completion of the transfer of the merchandise to the entity

placing the order by the transfer system; and

transmitting a command for stopping the acquiring of the position information to the transfer system and the preparation system upon receiving the transfer information by the acceptance center system.

27. (new) A drive through system comprising:

an ordering system mounted on a conveyance from which an order is placed, the ordering system comprising:

a position information means for receiving and responding to requests for position information of the conveyance via a mobile network, and

an ordering means for receiving input of an order for merchandise and transmitting the order as order information; and

an acceptance center system which accepts an order from the ordering system, the ordering system comprising:

a means for determining a preparation place of a plurality of preparation places and a transfer place of a plurality of transfer places, the transfer place determined by a predetermined distance from a preparation place and a location along an expected path of the conveyance, the expected path determined by speed of the

conveyance, distance of the conveyance from any of the plurality of transfer places and traffic conditions along any of a probable path of the conveyance to the plurality of transfer places,

a means for transmitting the ordering information to the preparation place and the transfer place, and

a stop means for stopping the acquiring of position information from the position information means, the stopping of the acquiring indicating an order has been transferred to the entity that placed the order;

a preparation system installed in each of the plurality of preparation places where a merchandise is prepared and stored; and

a transfer system installed in each of the plurality of transfer places where the merchandise prepared in one of the plurality of preparation places is transferred to an entity placing the order,

wherein the systems being connected to one another via a network.

28. (new) The drive through system according to claim 27, wherein the acceptance center system comprises:

a preparation place and transfer place position

information storage means for storing information of locations of each of the plurality of transfer places and the plurality of one or more pieces of preparation places.

29. (new) The drive through system according to claim 27, wherein the preparation system comprises:

a means for acquiring the position information of the conveyance from the ordering system from the point in time an order is transmitted to the preparation system until a stop command is received.

30. (new) The drive through system according to claim 27, wherein the transfer system comprises:

a means for periodically acquiring the position information from the ordering system while the order is pending;
and

a means for receiving an indication that the order has been transferred to the entity that placed the order; and

a means for transmitting information indicating that the order has been transferred to the entity that placed it to the acceptance center system.

31. (new) The drive through system according to claim 30, wherein the transfer system comprises:

a means for monitoring a movement path of the

conveyance based on the position information acquired by the transfer place means for periodically acquiring the position information of the conveyance;

a means for determining that a scheduled time for a pick up of the merchandise has increased based upon the acquired position of the conveyance; and

a means for transmitting trouble occurrence information indicating that a trouble has occurred in transferring the merchandise to the acceptance center system based upon the increase in the scheduled time for a pick up of the merchandise.

32. (new) The drive through system according to claim 31, wherein the preparation place and transfer place determination means newly acquires the position information from the ordering system, and extracts the preparation place and the transfer place again, when the acceptance center system receives the trouble occurrence information.

33. (new) The drive through system according to claim 27, further comprising:

a traffic information management server which is connected to the network to store traffic information of a road,

the transfer system comprising:

a means for transferring a request for acquiring the traffic information to the traffic information management

server to acquire the traffic information; and

a means for estimating a time at which the conveyance reaches the determined transfer place based on the acquired position information and traffic information.

34. (new) The drive through system according to claim 27,

wherein the preparation system comprises:

a means for transmitting a request for acquiring the traffic information to the traffic information management server to acquire the traffic information; and

a preparation place arrival time estimating means for estimating a time at which the conveyance reaches the determined transfer place based on the acquired position information and traffic information.

35. (new) The drive through system according to claim 27, wherein the ordering system comprises destination information transmission means for transmitting destination information indicating a destination of movement by the conveyance to the acceptance center system,

the acceptance center system comprises a means for estimating a future movement path of the conveyance based on the received position information and destination information upon receiving the position information and destination information

from the ordering system, and

the preparation place and transfer place determination means extracts the preparation place and the determined transfer place within a predetermined distance from the estimated movement path.

36. (new) The drive through system according to claim 27, wherein the preparation system comprises preparation place operation situation notification means for transmitting information indicating an operation situation of the preparation place to the acceptance center system,

the transfer system comprises transfer place operation situation notification means for transmitting information indicating the operation situation of the determined transfer place to the acceptance center system, and

the means for determining the preparation place and the transfer place determines the preparation place and the transfer place low in operation ratio based on the operation situation upon receiving the information indicating the operation situations of the determined preparation place and the determined transfer place.

37. (new) The drive through system according to claim 27, wherein the ordering system comprises permission period input means for inputting a position acquiring permission period

indicating a period in which the position information is permitted to be transmitted by the position information processing means, and

the position information transmittance means transmits the position information in the limited position acquiring permission period inputted by the permission period input means.